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Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 A-01 OPR-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8678

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP - MRS. CARTER'S SCHEDULE

REFS: (A) STATE 75631 (B) MONROVIA 1936 (C) STATE 68486

1. WE ARE UNABLE YET TO PROVIDE A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE LIBERIAN GUESTS AT MRS. CARTER'S LUNCH. RESPONSIBLE GOL OFFICIALS TOLD US MARCH 23 THEY WERE STILL WORKING ON THIS AND ASKED US FOR THE NAMES OF THOSE LADIES IN MRS. CARTER'S OFFICIAL PARTY. IF WOULD HELP IF WE COULD RECEIVE THESE NAMES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NOTED IN REFTEL B THAT WE EXPECT MRS. TOLBERT; MRS. C. CECIL DENNIS, WIFE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER; AND MRS. E. REGINALD TOWNSEND, WIFE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, TO FORM THE NUCLEUS OF THE OFFICIAL LADIES' GROUP ON THE GOL SIDE.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL C:

A. AFTER THE WELCOMING CEREMONIES (DETAILS OF WHICH ARE NOW BEING WORKED OUT WITH THE GOL) MRS. TOLBERT WILL ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER ON THE 50-MINUTE DRIVE TO EXECUTIVE MANSION. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
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HOSTED BY MRS. TOLBERT AND THE RETURN 50-MINUTE DRIVE TO ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

B. DURING THESE CONTACTS WITH MRS. CARTER, MRS. TOLBERT WILL PROBABLY DESCRIBE HER SOCIAL WORK, WHICH CENTERS AROUND DEVELOPING HOSTELS FOR YOUNG WOMEN WHO NEED SHELTER, HER WORK WITH THE YWCA AND HER MANY CHURCH-

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ORIENTED ACTIVITIES. SHE IS INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS FACING YOUTH AND WOMEN IN THE INCREASINGLY URBANIZED ENVIRONMENT OF MONROVIA AND OTHER MAJOR TOWNS IN LIBERIA. THESE PROBLEMS INCLUDE FAMILY DISRUPTIONS, LACK OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR YOUTH, UNEMPLOYMENT, SUB-STANDARD HOUSING AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM THE TRADITIONAL VILLAGE LIFE WITH ITS STRONG SOCIAL CONTROLS TO THE LESS STRUCTUREED URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

C. ANOTHER LIKELY TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WOULD BE THE EXTRADORDINARILY HIGH RATIO OF WOMEN OCCUPYING PROMINENT POSITIONS IN PUBLIC LIFE. MRS. TOLBERT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE PLEASED IF MRS. CARTER INDICATED AN AWARENESS OF THIS PHENOMENON AND PERHAPS MENTIONED ONE OR TWO OF THE LADIES BY NAME. WE HAVE RECOMMEDED TO THE GOL THAT SOME OF THESE WOMEN LEADERS BE PRESENT AT THE LUNCH TO BE GIVEN SEPARATELY BY MRS. TOLBERT FOR MRS. CARTER. AS WE LEARN THE NAMES OF THOSE TO BE NCLUDED,
WE SHALL BE FORWARDING BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC DATA.

D. AT THE LADIES' LUNCH, MRS. CARTER WI,L HAVE THE (OPPORTUNITY TM DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITH THESE LEADING PERSONALITIES. (WE SHALL BE PROVIDING FURTHER SUGGESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITEES.)

E. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MRS. TOLBERT WILL MAKE A SHORT SPEECH OF WELCOME AT THE LUNCH TO WHICH A BRIEF REPLY BY MRS. CARTER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE:

MRS. TOLBERT
HONORED GUESTS
IT IS A PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE YOUR GUEST HERE TODAY. LIBERIA IS THE LAST STOP ON A JOURNEY WHICH AS TAKEN US TO TWO CONTINENTS AND FOUR NATIONS.

THE WELCOME YOU HAVE GIVEN US HERE HAS GIVEN US THE FEELING OF ARRIVING HOME EVEN BEFORE WE REACHED OUR OWN SHORES. I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND MUCH MORE CLEARLY WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED THE "SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP" AND THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WHICH EXISTS BEWTEEN US. IT IS ONE THING TO HAVE READ ABOUT OUR HISTORICAL TIES, AND OUR SHARED VIEWS CONCERNING THE DIGNITY OF MAN, CONCERNING THE PROPER ROLE OF THE STATE AS SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE AND CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS ANOTHER TO BE HERE TODAY,

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TO TALK TO YOU AND TO SENSE HOW CLOSE WE REALLY ARE.

A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THE LEADING ROLE WHICH ALL OF YOU HAVE PLAYED IN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY OF LIBERIA. YOU HAVE READ ABOUT THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE IN THE UNITED STATES BY WOMEN FOR FULL RECOGNITION OF THEIR RIGHTS IN ALL SPHERES. YOUR OWN SUCCESS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT LIBERIA SHOULD BE A MODEL FOR THE OWRLD IN THIS ASPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

MRS. TOLBERT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH ME THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST IGNORANCE, DISEASE AND POVERTY IN LIBERIA. WHILE SHE MINIMIZES HERE OWN CONTRIBUTION, I WOULD LIKE HER TO KNOW THAT WE ARE FULLY
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AWARE OF HER GREAT EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HER ACTIONS IN INSPIRING ALL LIBERIAN WOMEN TO "HIGHER HEIGHTS", AS PRESIDENT TOLBERT WOULD SAY.

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FINALLY, I WISH TO TELL YOU HAW PROUD I AM TO BE LINKED TO YOU IN THIS "SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP" ACROSS THE SEA, AND TO THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL FEELING YOU HAVE GIVEN ME OF BEING AT HOME.

F. IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH, TEH TWO PRESIDENTS AND THE

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FIRST LADIES WILL DESCEND TO THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE EXECUTIVE MANSION FOR OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, AND THEN RETURN TO ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MRS. TOLBERT WILL AGAIN ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER ON THIS TRIP.

G. THE REFERENCE ALSO ASKED FOR TOPICAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO LIBERIANS IN GENERAL. ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, EDUCATED LIBERIANS ARE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN AFRICAN MATTERS. THEY ARE PROUD OF LIBERIA'S STATUS AS THE OLDEST INDIPENDENT REPUBLIC SOUTH OF THE SAHARA (INDEPENDENCE IN 1847) AND HAVE CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT TO USE THIS SENIORITY TO AMELORIATE QUARRELS AMONG AFRICAN STATES AND TO SEEK REASONABLE SOLUNTIONS TO THE MAJOR ISSUES, SUCH AS APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA; SELF-RULE IN RHODESIA (ZIMBABWE) AND SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (NAMIBIA); AND THE HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. THE U.S. APPRECIATES THE EFFORTS OF THE GOL UNDER PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S LEADERSHIP IN THE SEARCH FOR JUST RESOLUTIONS OF THESE PROBLEMS. SPECIAL MENTION
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SHOULD BE MADE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE SIX-NATION RECONCILIATION SUMMIT HELD IN MONROVIA ON MARCH 18-19. THIS SUMMIT CONVENED THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF GUINEA, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, TOGO, THE GAMBIA AND LIBERIA AND SYMBOLIZED AN IMPORTANT REGIONAL RECONCILIATION BE-TWEEN SEKOU TOURE, PRESIDENT OF GUINEA, ON THE ONE HAND, AND LEOPOLD SENGHOR, PRESIDENT OF SENGAL, AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, PRESIDENT OF THE IVORY COAST, ON THE OTHER. MUCH OF THE CREDIT BELONGS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOR PATIENTLY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO PERSUADE THE PRINCIPALS THAT BETTER RELATIONSHIPS WOULD EB BENEFICIAL TO ALL AND FOR PROVIDING THE GROUND ON WHICH THEY MET. MRS. TOLBERT WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED IF MENTION COULD BE MADE OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS HAD IN THIS RECONCILIATION.
CARTER

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